EYFS Welfare Requirements – 2026 Framework

Child Protection & Safeguarding	Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) appointed and trained	
	Written safeguarding policy in place and implemented. Policy includes: • Actions to take if there are concerns about a child • Procedures for allegations against staff • Use of mobile phones, cameras and electronic devices • referrals and relevant notifications • Safer recruitment and suitability checks	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
	• All staff are trained to identify, understand and respond appropriately to signs of abuse, harm and neglect. • Safeguarding training meets the criteria outlined in Annex C of the EYFS Statutory Framework 2026. • Safeguarding training is renewed at least every two years, with annual updates and refresher training provided as appropriate. • Staff receive ongoing safeguarding support, advice and guidance from the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). • Staff understand how to recognise, record, report and escalate safeguarding concerns in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures. • Concerns about children's safety or welfare are referred immediately to local authority children's social care, in line with local reporting procedures, and to the police in emergencies. • • Staff have regard to relevant statutory guidance, including: ○ *Working Together to Safeguard Children* ○ *Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales* ○ *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026* • A whistleblowing policy is in place and shared with all staff, including students and volunteers. Staff understand how to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice, how concerns will be addressed and how to escalate concerns externally if necessary. • An attendance policy is in place and shared with parents and carers. This outlines expectations for reporting absences and the procedures followed when a child is absent without notification or for a prolonged period. • Unexplained or prolonged absences are followed up promptly, including contacting parents/carers and alternative emergency contacts where necessary. • Patterns of absence and individual vulnerabilities are considered, with safeguarding concerns escalated to children's social care and/or the police as appropriate.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A

Suitable people	• All staff, students and volunteers are assessed as suitable to work with children and have the relevant qualifications, training and checks for their roles. • Enhanced DBS and children's barred list checks are completed for all individuals aged 16 and over where required by the EYFS Framework, including applicable volunteers. • Individuals do not begin working or volunteering until the required checks have been received, except for the specific exemption for occasional supervised volunteers. • Overseas criminal record checks are undertaken where applicable. • Staff and prospective staff are informed of their duty to disclose information that may affect their suitability, including arrests, charges, convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings, subject to the rules on protected convictions and cautions. • At least one written reference is obtained before recruitment for staff, students and volunteers. References are checked, verified and any concerns or discrepancies followed up. • Staff qualifications are verified and appropriate records of recruitment and vetting checks are maintained. **Records kept include:** • Qualifications and verification checks. • Identity checks. • DBS certificate reference numbers and dates obtained. • Details of who obtained the checks. • References and other relevant vetting information. **Additional Requirements** • Referrals are made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) where the statutory referral criteria are met. • The school complies with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, as amended. • Disqualification requirements under the Childcare Act 2006 are followed, and individuals who are disqualified are not employed in early years provision. • Any information affecting an individual's suitability is considered promptly, with appropriate action taken to safeguard children.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Staff Taking Medication / Other Substances	• Staff must not be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that may affect their ability to care for children. • Staff taking medication that may affect their ability to care for children must seek medical advice. • Staff must only work directly with children if medical advice confirms that their medication is unlikely to impair their ability to provide safe and appropriate care. • All staff medication must be stored securely and out of children's reach at all times.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Staff qualifications, training, support and skills	All staff receive appropriate induction training to ensure they understand their roles and responsibilities, including: • Safeguarding and child protection procedures. • Health and safety procedures. • Emergency evacuation procedures. • Child protection and safeguarding reporting arrangements. • Allergy awareness, medical procedures and safe eating practices. • Supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A

	• The school's policies, procedures and expectations. Staff receive ongoing professional development to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to meet children's individual needs. SEND training is provided through whole-school CPD, Local Authority training and support from external professionals where appropriate. Training needs are identified and reviewed regularly.	
	Appropriate supervision arrangements are in place for staff who have contact with children and families. Supervision provides opportunities for: • Coaching, support and professional development. • Promoting children's interests and wellbeing. • Encouraging teamwork, mutual support and continuous improvement. • Discussing sensitive issues, including concerns about children's development and wellbeing. • Identifying solutions to challenges and supporting staff in their roles.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
	Paediatric First Aid • At least one member of staff with a current, full Paediatric First Aid (PFA) certificate must be on the premises and available at all times when children are present. • A member of staff with a current, full PFA certificate must accompany children on outings. • PFA training must meet the criteria outlined in Annex A of the EYFS Statutory Framework 2026. • PFA certificates must be renewed every three years. • Staff who obtained a Level 2 or Level 3 qualification since 30 June 2016 must obtain a PFA qualification within three months of starting work to be counted in the required staff-to-child ratios at that qualification level, subject to the exceptions in the framework. • Staff who have completed the experience-based route must obtain a PFA qualification before being counted at Level 3. • PFA certificates, or a list of staff holding current certificates, are displayed or made available to parents and carers. • The school ensures that sufficient PFA-trained staff are available to respond promptly to emergencies, taking account of the number of children, staffing arrangements and layout of the premises. • A member of staff with a current, full PFA certificate should be present in the room whenever children are eating.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
	Sufficient Understanding and Use of English Staff have sufficient understanding and use of English to ensure children's wellbeing and meet their individual needs. Staff are able to: • Keep accurate records. • Communicate effectively with children and parents/carers. • Liaise with other professionals and agencies. • Understand instructions and guidance. • Summon emergency assistance when required.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A

Key person	Each child assigned a key person The key person helps ensure each child's care is tailored to their individual needs. • Supports children to settle into the setting and develop secure relationships. • Builds positive relationships with parents and carers. • Supports children's learning, development and wellbeing. • Helps families access additional or specialist support where appropriate.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Staff to Child Ratios	**Staff-to-Child Ratios** • Statutory staff-to-child ratios are maintained in accordance with the EYFS Framework 2026. • Staff are appropriately qualified and deployed to meet children's individual needs and ensure their safety. • Children are usually within sight and hearing of staff and must always be within sight or hearing. • Parents and carers are informed about staffing arrangements. • Ratios are maintained across the provision, including during staff breaks and changes in staffing. **Nursery – Children Aged 3 and Over** • Dean Field Nursery operates on a staffing ratio of **1 adult to 8 children (1:8)**. • At least one member of staff must hold an approved Level 3 qualification. • At least half of all other staff must hold an approved Level 2 qualification. • Dean Field Nursery has two Level 3 qualified members of staff working directly with the children. • The school ensures that staffing levels and qualifications meet the applicable statutory requirements at all times. **Reception** • Reception classes operate in accordance with infant class size legislation, with a maximum of 30 pupils per school teacher during ordinary teaching sessions, subject to statutory exceptions. • Additional staff are deployed according to children's needs, including those with SEND. **Students, Apprentices and Volunteers** • Students, apprentices and volunteers are only included in statutory ratios where the conditions outlined in the EYFS Framework 2026 are met. • Suitability, competence, qualifications and Paediatric First Aid requirements are considered before anyone is included in ratios No students or volunteers to be counted in ratio	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Health	**Medicines** • A written policy for administering medicines is in place and followed.	☐ Met ☐ Partial

	• Staff receive appropriate training where administering medication requires medical or technical knowledge. • Prescription medicines are only administered where prescribed for the child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist. • Written parental permission is obtained before administering medication. • A written record is kept each time medication is administered, and parents/carers are informed on the same day or as soon as reasonably practicable. • All medicines are stored securely and appropriately, out of children's reach. • Individual healthcare plans are in place where required, including arrangements for children with allergies or medical conditions.	☐ Not met ☐ N/A
	Food, Drink and Safe Eating Healthy, balanced and nutritious meals and snacks are provided where applicable. Information about children's dietary requirements, preferences, allergies and intolerances is obtained before admission and kept up to date. Individual allergy management arrangements are in place, including appropriate staff awareness and emergency procedures. Fresh drinking water is available and accessible at all times. Food hygiene requirements are followed, including safe preparation, storage and handling. Children are appropriately supervised while eating and drinking. Staff are aware of choking risks, and food is prepared and served appropriately for children's ages and developmental stages. Staff are trained to recognise and respond to choking and allergic reactions. Children must always be within sight and hearing of a member of staff while eating. • A member of staff with current paediatric first aid training should be in the room when children are eating (where specified in the safer-eating guidance). • At each meal/snack a named adult checks that food and drink meet individual allergy and dietary requirements. • Staff preparing or handling food receive food hygiene training. • Choking incidents requiring intervention are recorded, parents informed and patterns reviewed.	
Accident or injury	• A suitably stocked first aid box is accessible at all times. • Written records are maintained of accidents, injuries and any first aid treatment provided. • Parents/carers are informed of accidents or injuries sustained by their child and any treatment given on the same day or as soon as reasonably practicable. • Serious accidents, injuries and deaths are reported to the appropriate authorities within the statutory timescales, where notification requirements apply. • Accidents and incidents are reviewed to identify risks and prevent recurrence.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A

Safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment	• Premises and equipment are safe, clean, secure and fit for purpose. • Health and safety legislation is complied with. • Indoor and outdoor areas are appropriately maintained and checked for hazards. • Equipment and resources are suitable for children's ages, developmental stages and individual needs. • Appropriate hygiene and infection prevention procedures are followed. • Adequate toilet and handwashing facilities are available. • Appropriate arrangements are in place for children requiring intimate care. • Children are appropriately supervised indoors and outdoors. • Risk assessments are undertaken and reviewed as necessary. • Appropriate arrangements are in place for children who may occasionally require rest or sleep. • Banned dog breeds, including XL Bully types, are not permitted on the premises, in accordance with the EYFS Framework 2026	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Smoking	• Smoking and vaping are prohibited anywhere on the school premises, including indoor and outdoor areas. • Staff, students, volunteers, parents/carers, visitors and contractors must not smoke or vape on school premises. • Staff, students and volunteers must not smoke or vape during off-site activities when children are present or about to be present	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Premises	• Adequate toilets and handwashing facilities are available. • Suitable facilities are provided for children requiring changing or intimate care. • A suitable area is available for confidential and sensitive discussions with parents/carers. • Children are only released into the care of individuals authorised by their parents/carers. • Children must not leave the premises unsupervised. • Appropriate procedures are in place for the safe arrival, collection and non-collection of children. • The premises are secure, with appropriate arrangements to prevent unauthorised access. • Staff ensure children are adequately supervised at all times	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Risk assessment	Risks to children's safety and wellbeing are identified, assessed and managed effectively. Appropriate risk assessments are in place for indoor and outdoor provision, activities and equipment. Risk assessments are reviewed regularly and following significant changes or incidents. Staff are aware of identified risks and the measures in place to minimise them. Written risk assessments are maintained where required or appropriate.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Outings	• Appropriate risk assessments are completed before outings. • Written parental permission is obtained for children to participate in outings where required. • Staffing arrangements and supervision are appropriate to the children's ages and individual needs. • A member of staff with a current paediatric first aid certificate accompanies children on outings. • Emergency contact details and appropriate medical information are available. • Procedures are in place to respond to emergencies, accidents or a missing child during outings.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A

SEND	Arrangements are in place to identify and support children with SEND at the earliest opportunity. • A suitably qualified SENCO is appointed in accordance with statutory requirements. • Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure children with SEND can access learning and provision. • Staff work closely with parents/carers, the SENCO and external professionals to meet individual needs. • Appropriate support plans and interventions are implemented and reviewed regularly. • Staff receive SEND training through whole-school CPD, Local Authority training and external professionals where appropriate.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Information and records	• Children's records are accurate, up to date and stored securely. • Information is managed in accordance with data protection legislation and confidentiality requirements. • Staff understand their responsibilities for maintaining and sharing information appropriately. • Records are accessible to authorised staff and relevant agencies where required. • Appropriate procedures are followed when transferring records to another setting or school. • Safeguarding records are managed and transferred securely in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Information about child	The following information is obtained and kept up to date: • Child's full name, date of birth and home address. • Names and addresses of parents/carers. • Details of everyone with parental responsibility. • Details of the person or people the child normally lives with. • At least two emergency contact telephone numbers, with more than two obtained where possible. • Information about medical conditions, allergies, dietary requirements and SEND. • Details of individuals authorised to collect the child. • Records of attendance and absence.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Information for parents	Parents and carers are provided with information about: • How the EYFS provision operates, including routines and opening times. • The curriculum and children's learning and development. • Their child's key person and staffing arrangements. • Settling-in and transition arrangements. • SEND provision and additional support available. • Food, drink and dietary arrangements. • Safeguarding and child protection procedures. • Attendance and absence reporting procedures. • Collection arrangements and procedures for uncollected or missing children. • Relevant school policies and procedures. • How to contact the school in an emergency. • How to make a complaint	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Complaints	• A written complaints policy and procedure is in place and accessible to parents/carers. • Parents/carers are informed how to raise concerns or make a complaint. • Written complaints relating to EYFS requirements are investigated. • Complainants are notified of the outcome within 28 days. • Written records of complaints, investigations and outcomes are maintained. • Records are made available to Ofsted upon request, where applicable.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A

	• Parents/carers are informed how to contact Ofsted if they have concerns about EYFS provision. • Relevant requirements for notifying parents about inspections and making inspection reports available are followed	
Children's Screen Use	• Have regard to DfE guidance on screen use in early years settings. • Screen use is purposeful, age-appropriate and supports children's learning and development. • Children are supervised when using digital devices, with appropriate online safety measures in place. • Screen use does not replace opportunities for play, physical activity, communication and social interaction. • Individual needs, including SEND, are considered when using digital technology.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Safer Sleep	• Children in Nursery and Reception are not routinely expected to sleep during the school day. • If a child needs to sleep, a suitable individual sleep space and appropriate supervision are arranged according to their age and needs. • Sleeping children are checked frequently and remain within sight and hearing of staff. • Safe positioning, bedding and temperature are considered, with heads and faces uncovered. • Staff follow relevant NHS safer sleep guidance; the specific additional requirements for children under two are reviewed if the school admits younger children.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Banned Dog Breeds	• Dean Field Community Primary School operates a strict **no dogs permitted on school premises** policy. • This includes all dog breeds, including those prohibited under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, such as XL Bully types, even where an exemption certificate is held. • Staff are aware of this restriction and must report any concerns or breaches to school leaders immediately.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Supporting and Understanding Children's Behaviour	• Staff support and manage behaviour appropriately, considering children's individual needs and development. • Corporal punishment, threats of corporal punishment and punishment harmful to wellbeing are prohibited. • Physical intervention is used only where lawful and necessary to avert immediate injury or manage behaviour when absolutely necessary. • Every physical intervention is recorded and parents/carers informed on the same day or as soon as reasonably practicable.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Insurance	• Appropriate insurance, including public liability cover, is maintained for all premises used for EYFS provision. • Vehicles and drivers used to transport children on outings are adequately insured.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Outdoor Access and Indoor Space	• Children have daily access to outdoor play or planned daily outdoor activities unless circumstances make this inappropriate. • Indoor usable space and organisation are checked against the EYFS space requirements for the ages attending.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Fire Safety and Visitor Security	• Appropriate fire detection and fire-fighting equipment is maintained; exits are identified, unobstructed and operable from inside. • Procedures are in place to check visitor identities and prevent unauthorised access.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A

Food Poisoning and Notifications	• Food poisoning affecting two or more children is escalated promptly under the school's incident and public health reporting arrangements. • The statutory 14-day Ofsted notification duty in paragraph 3.73 applies to registered providers; school-specific reporting duties are checked separately.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Information About the Provider and Attendance Records	• Required provider and staff contact information is maintained securely, as applicable to school-based provision. • Daily records show children attending, attendance hours and each child's key person. • Requirements for registration certificates and notifications that apply only to registered providers are not incorrectly treated as school registration duties.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Equality and Inclusion	• Staffing and provision comply with applicable Equality Act 2010 duties, including reasonable adjustments. • The school has regard to the SEND Code of Practice and maintains effective SENCO arrangements.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Safeguarding Policy Detail	• Safeguarding procedures specify how staff use mobile phones, cameras and other devices capable of imaging/sharing. • Safeguarding procedures describe training delivery, ongoing implementation support, allegations and safer recruitment.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A
Record Keeping and Information Sharing	• Regular two-way information sharing with parents/carers and other settings where relevant is supported. • Records are accessible to those with a professional right to see them, retained for appropriate periods and made available to parents subject to lawful exemptions.	☐ Met ☐ Partial ☐ Not met ☐ N/A